Will the Real Mr. Shoemaker Please Stand Up?

J.J. Johnson - Posted: 06.15.00

We all read the story.

Reports were buzzing about one man, Dan Shoemaker who plans to throw down the Second Amendment Gauntlet this weekend in Illinois. No doubt the story was copied and pasted repeatedly to all the left-wing, anti-constitutional hate groups, and sealed in their archives to use as cannon fodder in the event Shoemaker ever changes his mind, and decides on a more peaceful way to make change. His words have forever marked him already.

But what's the whole point here? What's Shoemaker's agenda? And what makes this story so interesting to so many people?

There are several theories floating around. The first, which may be obvious, is that this man, who professes to be in the Western Illinois Militia suffers from a mental illness known as "suicide by coposis" – an illness which no coroner dares find a cure.

Then there were the immediate accusations that this man "must be a fed." Hardly. Federal case history shows that no federal informant would put himself out on a limb just to be killed – something that Shoemaker has definitely set himself up for. Police have killed unarmed people for less. If he was in the process of entrapping his subjects, his statements in the press just blew his credibility.

The third, and what some say who know this person, says he's a high-strung and distraught man who may now be a few bricks short of a full load. A man who suffers from delusions of grandeur, and is simply a dangerous individual. Many people have of course distanced themselves from him, not wanting be "labeled" or follow Shoemaker's footsteps in that fashion.

Who's right? Who's wrong?

Enter choice number four. A possible reason for his actions and maybe even the most explainable. It might even explain why so many people took so much interest in this enigma.

You see, no one would dare say what Shoemaker said. These days not even in private. But how many reading this article may have had these same thoughts themselves in the past, or even the present?

Not you, of course.

Let's compare, shall we?

You believe in the right to keep and bear arms – at least in some fashion. So, the laws of a given city or state say that your weapon must be unloaded while you're driving, with any ammunition kept at an unreachable place in the vehicle. This law is only made to ensure no resistance to those armed individuals who would violate your constitutional rights.

Still, if for any reason a person feels threatened; they knowingly violate that law by slamming in a magazine, and in some cases, making sure one's in the chamber. Are you one of these people?

If so, what's the difference between you and Dan Shoemaker?

Dan's standing up - and we're not.

This is not to say that I agree with Shoemaker's plans. In fact, his statements underscore the reasons that any existing "militia groups" should
disband themselves. Bad tactics. It's a bad law in Illinois. Shoemaker's way of dealing with it is even worse. And if his associates allow him to carry out this action (I hope they're reading this,) they will live with being partly responsible for his imprisonment or death.

The smartest thing to do in this case is to show up in the two towns in Illinois ready to shoot – with cameras. Let America see how people who swore an oath to uphold the constitution prepare to deal with those who are willing to live by it.

Back to the issue at hand. We have a man who states, "I will live free or die." Take notice, if his plan is carried out, no one doubts the latter.
This encompasses the entire issue. With the ongoing political assaults on the Second Amendment, Shoemaker may simply be choosing to take a course that pro-gun activists may be "forced" to take later.

I can hear it now: "But, Mr. Johnson, we can't advocate what Shoemaker's doing! He's too radical, he's too 'militia'. He's too extreme. He's a kook. We don't want to be associated with that. We don't want to be labeled - …"

..And this is why we're losing our rights today.

If Shoemaker were to announce these same intentions 20 or 30 years ago, it wouldn't even be a story, and we can rest assured that he wouldn't even draw a crowd. In fact, if he were to be labeled a 'nut' back then, it would only be protesting a moot point. If the statements were made 10 years ago, a simple visit and understanding between Shoemaker and the police would have again, made this a non-issue.

But this is the year 2000.

I can guarantee, the first persons notified of this story after the report were the FBI, ATF, IRS, and every other cop shop within that jurisdiction. Each of them have been briefed that the "world will end on June 17th," unless they are prepared to kill Dan Shoemaker, and by the way – let that be a lesson to the rest of you.

Perhaps that's the point Dan's trying to make. Perhaps Shoemaker believes that his violent death with spark an uprising of pro-gun forces in the
country to retaliate against "the enemy."

Dan, if you're reading this: listen carefully – it ain't gonna happen.

Dan will be used as the "poster boy" for more gun control laws. Not because of the action he takes, but because few people will dare take the same stand. These days, having a "bad label" is more of a threat than losing a precious right.

This is why Dan will stand alone.

Since I began writing this article, a lot has happened regarding Dan. He has become despondent and refuses to accept any more phone calls. It has been confirmed by this office that my predictions about the response of law enforcement will come true if Dan stays his course. There have been a number of his friends and associates who have tried to change his course. Only time will tell.

Soon, Dan may be just another name of some poor fool who tried to "stand up to the authorities." It's sad that Dan may have to die because the real Dan Shoemakers (or not enough of them) of the world never stood up to begin with.

Come to think of it, they probably called the men at Lexington Green “crazy” too.

Yes, America. As crazy as Shoemaker may seem, many may find themselves in the same position one day. As of now, Dan is choosing that day. The rest of us may soon not have such a luxury as a “choice.” Each and everyday in this country, we witness another person pushed into insanity as a last resort against an oppressive system of government. The easy way out for all of us is to become self-styled psychologists, and analyze a person from afar for simply doing what we don’t have the guts to even contemplate.

So we rationalize the madness of it all. From the criminal acts of the current regime, the treason, the land theft, the corruption, the unwarranted
attacks on history and the truth, we all do our part to conform to point that we’re really not fighting for our freedoms at all. That’s because many
of us unconsciously know that we have virtually no freedom left to fight for. Instead we fight to be the last person huddle into the boxcar – toward the concentration camps.

Is Dan Shoemaker really crazy, or just a victim - a by-product of the modern-day freedom movement in America?

As crazy as it may sound, perhaps Dan is just a few steps ahead of the rest of us.

Think about it.